

Earth Day was founded in 1970 by

U. S. Senator Gaylord Nelson

“The American people finally had a forum to express its concern about what was happening to the land, rivers, lakes, and air - and they did so with spectacular exuberance.”

Senator Gaylord Nelson

Wisconsin

1995 Recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom



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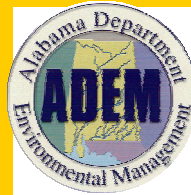
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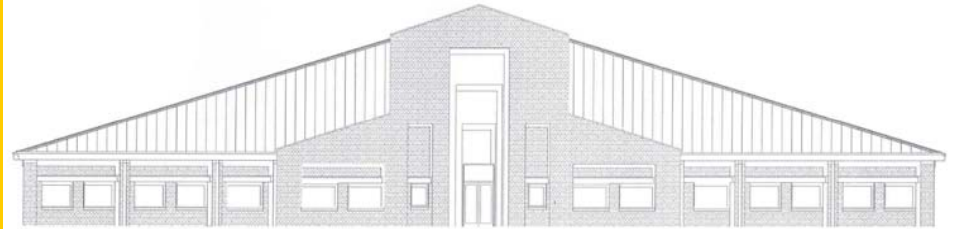
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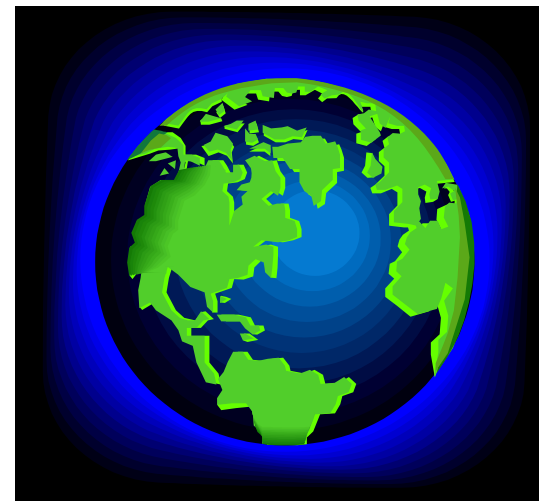
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April 22, 2005



Environmental Laboratory Ground Breaking Ceremony and Earth Day Celebration



Facts About The Building

ADEM BREAKS GROUND ON NEW ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY

On April 22, 2005, ADEM officials broke ground for the new ADEM Central Laboratory facility in Montgomery. The approximately 40,000 square-foot facility will be constructed adjacent to the Department's headquarters on Coliseum Boulevard and will house its scientific and analytical processes under one roof. The new laboratory will replace the existing central laboratory facility, the oldest such laboratory site in the eight state southeast region, housed in multiple pre-World War II temporary buildings. Plans call for a more efficient facility that will be less costly to operate than the older complex. Current maintenance and utility costs are very high due to the age and condition of the existing buildings, many of which have served their useful life and are beyond repair.

The new central laboratory will provide better use of space for scientists and administrators, and greater efficiency for conducting sophisticated, detailed analyses of fish tissue, soil, water and air samples. The facility will continue to provide data that is used to make decisions on environmental permits, facility compliance, support of enforcement actions, and for conducting overall assessments of the state's air, land, and water resources.

Consistent with the ADEM Space Needs Assessment and Master Plan developed in 1989-90, the new laboratory will be built on land owned by the Department, with site work tentatively scheduled to commence in early May 2005. Retirement Systems of Alabama has agreed to provide financing for the approximately \$8.5 million building through a lease-purchase agreement. ADEM will use federal funds to pay for the facility, which should require about one year to complete.

Earth Day Celebration

The following are examples of ADEM staff participation of Earth Day Celebrations around the state:

- 1) Carmen Yelle will participate in Samford University's Earth Day Celebration with education on various aspects of nonpoint source pollution.
- 2) Leigh Bacon and Geoff Healan will be participating at the Birmingham McWane Center's "Clean Air Affair" to educate children about air pollution.
- 3) Cary Spiegel will be educating 4th grade students at Millbrook Elementary School regarding groundwater pollution.
- 4) Gary Ellis and Vanitra Gadson will be unveiling the Department's new pollution prevention outreach program, Partner with ADEM for a Clean Environment or PACE at the Montgomery Zoo. Children will learn how they can become a "PACE Cadet."
- 5) Rita Nichols is conducting education to approximately 1000 students in the Selma city and surrounding county schools household hazardous waste, proper recycling and disposal methods. Students will also be introduced to the personal protective gear that workers may wear under certain hazardous conditions.

